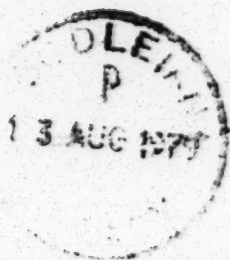


THE
CHRONICLE
OF THE
KINGS
OF
ENGLAND,
FROM
THE NORMAN CONQUEST
UNTO
THE PRESENT TIME.



HUDDERSFIELD:
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THE
P R E F A C E.

NATHAN BEN SADDI, a servant of God, of the house of Israel, to all and every of his readers, whether Jew or gentile, greeting.

Notwithstanding that many have taken in hand to write the history of England, it seemed good unto me also, most excellent reader, to set forth in order some things that have happened since the conquest of William the Norman.

Now this I have chosen to do in the manner of our forefathers, the ancient Jewish historians, as being not only the most concise, but most venerable way of writing.

Howbeit, I would not that thou shouldst be offended, or take in evil part, that I have adventured to imitate those sublime originals: neither let it enter into thine heart, that I have done this thing in sport, or wantonness
of

of wit; for verily I abound not therewith, as thou wilt undoubtedly perceive.

Nevertheless, in perusing this delectable history, thou wilt meet with abundant matter both for information and amusement, and peradventure also for instruction.

And it shall come to pass when thou readest of the foolish kings that have ruled the land, then shall thy soul be troubled, and thou shalt say within thyself, how small a portion of sense sufficeth to govern a great kingdom?

But when thou readest of the kings that were wise and great, then shall thy heart be glad, and thou shalt compare the passed times with the present, and rejoice therein and laugh exceedingly.

Moreover thou wilt find, that the end of the first was bitterness and shame, but the end of the last was glory and honour; These shall be set up as a light unto kings in all ages, but those as a warning from generation to generation.



The CHRONICLE, &c.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

Now it came to pass in the year one thousand sixty and six, in the month of September, on the eighth day of the month, that William of Normandy, surnamed the bastard, landed in England, and pitched his tent in a field near the town of Hastings.

Then Harold the king, attended by all his nobles, came forth to meet him with a numerous army, and gave him battle.

And it was fought from the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same.

But Harold was slain, by an arrow shot into his brains, and his army was routed with exceeding great slaughter.

'Then William the bastard took on him the royal robes, and the scepter, and the diadem,

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and

and was made king of England, and was called the conqueror.

And he seized the coffers of king Harold; and the gold, and the silver, and the precious stones, and all the treasures he distributed to his followers.

And he built a strong castle, and he fortified it with a wall and a ditch; and it is called the tower of London unto this day.

And he subdued the land, and subjected it unto him; and that they might not rebel against him, he despoiled his subjects of all manner of instruments of war.

And he caused a survey to be taken of all the lands in the kingdom, and how much appertained to each person, which he wrote in a book called dooms-day book.

And he raised a tribute from every one, according to his substance, and oppressed them greatly.

Moreover he made a law, and caused it to be observed throughout the whole kingdom, that at the ringing of a bell, all his subjects, from the greatest even unto the least, should extinguish their fires, and suffer no light to appear in their houses upon pain of death.

So it was called the Curfew-bell; and at the sound thereof the lights were extinguished, and our fathers slept in the dark.

These

These are the acts of William the bastard; who, after he had reigned twenty and one years, died, and was buried in his own tomb at Roan in Normandy, and Rufus his son reigned in his stead.

WILLIAM RUFUS.

Now Rufus was thirty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England twelve years and ten months, and his mother's name was Matilda.

And he was a very wicked man, and his heart was set to do evil continually; and he banished the priests, and converted the sacred revenues to his own use.

But a dangerous distemper seized him, and his sickness seemed unto death.

Then his heart trembled within him, and he repented him of his sin; and he sent for the high priest, and besought him, saying,

I have done evil in the sight of the Lord, in seizing the vacant bishopricks; wherefore now, I pray thee, take back the things which belong to the church, that it may be well with me, and that my soul may live.

Howbeit, when the sickness left him, he forgot all that he had promised, and returned to his evil ways.

Nevertheless he was a valiant prince, and he fought against the Welch, and discomfited them, and drove them into the mountains, and conquered the southern part of the country.

And Malcolm also, king of the scots, made war upon him; but he slew him in battle, and put his army to flight.

And in these days were great divisions in the church, and Urban the pope bethought himself how he might put an end to them; and he sent messengers to all the princes of Christendom, saying, Behold now, O ye Christian princes, the infidels have taken the city of Jerusalem, even the city of our God; they have possessed themselves of the holy land, and profaned the sacred places; wherefore now, I pray ye, let us unite together, and drive them from the face of the earth, to the end that the holy city may be delivered from the pollutions of evil doers and from the scorn of unbelievers.

So the princes raised a numerous army; and they distinguished themselves by a red cross, which they wore on the upper garment, wherefore this expedition was called the Crusade; and they marched into Palestine, and besieged the holy city, and took it.

And it came to pass in those days, that the sea overflowed its banks, insomuch that great
part

part of the lands of earl Godwin, in Kent, was overwhelmed and lost in the sea ; and the place is called Godwin's sands unto this day.

And Rufus builded a great hall, the like of which had not been seen in England ; the length thereof was two hundred and seventy feet, and the breadth thereof was seventy and four feet ; and he called it Westminster-hall.

And it came to pass on a certain day, as he hunted in the forest which his father had made, that he was slain with an arrow ; and his body was carried in a cart to the city of Winchester, and was buried there ; and Henry his brother reigned in his stead.

HENRY I.

Now Henry was a learned man, and a prince of exceeding great wisdom, insomuch that he was surnamed Beauchlerk : and he set himself to enact good laws, and to govern his people wisely.

And he restored to the English the privilege of having lights in their houses, after the ringing of the Curfew-bell.

And he granted a charter, whereby he confirmed the rights of the church, and relinquished his claim to the vacant bishop-

ricks; and forgave all debts due to the crown, all offences committed before his coronation, and confirmed the statutes of Edward the confessor.

Moreover, he ordained that the length of his own arm should be the standard measure throughout the kingdom, and it is called a yard unto this day.

And he instituted the high court of parliament, and assembled them together in the city of Salisbury; he appointed also the watch.

Now the rest of the acts of king Henry, the lampreys that he ate, and the children that he begat, are they not written in the book of Baker the historian?

And Henry reigned over England thirty and five years, and he died, and Stephen earl of Boloign reigned in his stead.

STEPHEN.

AND Stephen was a goodly man, and a man of great valour; howbeit, as he was not the rightful heir, he bethought himself how he might best obtain the affections of the people; and he fought by all manner of ways to please them.

To

To the nobles he gave leave to build them forts and castles on their own lands; he won favour with the priests by exempting them from temporal authority; the gentry he pleased with leave to hunt in his forests; and he pleased the people with freeing them from taxes and impositions.

Nevertheless his reign was full of trouble, the sword was not sheathed, neither ceased he from war all the days of his life.

And now the sin of laziness began to prevail in the land, and the great men and the nobles made unto themselves coaches and chariots, and were drawn through the streets of the city with horses; moreover, their pride increased daily, insomuch that in process of time they were carried on the shoulders of men and blushed not.

And Stephen reigned over England eighteen years and nine months, and he died, and Henry Plantagenet reigned in his stead.

HENRY II.

AND Henry was twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England four and thirty years and eight months, and his mother's name was Maud.

And

And he chose unto himself wise and discreet counsellors of state; he appointed learned and able men to reform abuses in the laws, he disbanded also the foreign army which his father had kept, and utterly destroyed the castles and forts which the nobles and prelates had built in his reign.

And it came to pass, that grievous complaints were made unto the king of divers cruel offences and enormous crimes committed by the clergy, occasioned by their being exempted in the former reign from the civil power, and encouraged, as was said, by the connivance of Becket the high priest.

And the king assembled the priests and the elders together, and he said unto them, Is it not meet that this law should be abolished? and they answered him and said, It is meet.

Then Becket the high priest stood up, and opposed the king with great haughtiness, and refused his assent.

And the wrath of the king was kindled against him, and he caused him to be accused of divers crimes and misdemeanors, and he was condemned by the priests and the elders, as a perjured man and a traitor.

Then Becket fled from the presence of the king, and became a fugitive in the land of Gaul.

And

And it came to pass after some time, that the king was reconciled to Becket, and he took him again into favour, and restored unto him all the honours that he before enjoyed.

Howbeit the pride of his heart was not a jot abated, he burned with choler, and cast about how he might revenge himself of his enemies.

And he suspended some, and some he excommunicated, and became in all respects more insolent than before.

Then certain of the priests and the nobles came unto the king, and complained of Becket, saying, O king! the man whom thou forgavest, is now more wicked than he was before, his crimes are increased seven-fold.

Then the king waxed exceeding wroth, and his countenance changed, and he cried out, O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this turbulent priest?

Now this saying was heard by certain of the king's servants, and they went forth privily, and finding the high priest at the altar, they fell on him and slew him, and dashed out his brains at the foot of the altar, and his blood stained the holy place.

And the priests were inflamed with fury, and thy sent unto the pope, accusing the king for the murder of Becket.

And

And the pope was moved exceedingly, and he sent unto the king, commanding him to purge himself of the crime laid to his charge.

And Henry protested his innocence, but it availed not: the words he had spoken testified against him, and he was compelled to expiate his fault by a penance at the tomb of Becket.

Now the penance enjoined was this: he cloathed himself in woollen, and journeyed till he came within sight of the church wherein Becket was slain.

Then he alighted from his horse, and pulling his shoes from his feet, he walked barefoot till he came to the tomb where the holy man was laid, and he prostrated himself before the shrine, and prayed, and offered rich gifts.

Moreover he uncloathed himself, and received discipline from the hands of the monks; and they strake him with rods, that the blood ran from his shoulders.

And the fame of Becket waxed great, and he was canonized, and miracles were wrought at his tomb.

And of the miracles that he wrought, is it not recorded, how he rose from the coffin and lighted the candles at his own burial? and when the funeral ceremony was ended,
how

how he lifted up his head and blessed the people ?

He that believeth, let him believe still ; and he that doubteth, let him doubt and be damned.

And Henry was a great prince, and he conquered the kingdom of Ireland, and added it to his dominions.

Now the rest of the acts of king Henry, the concubine that he kept in the bower of Woodstock, and how she was poisoned by Eleanor the queen, are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the kings of England ?

And Henry slept with his fathers, and Richard his son reigned in his stead.

RICHARD I.

AND it came to pass at the coronation of Richard, that certain of the Jews pressing in to see the ceremony, were set upon by the people with great rage and fury, and many of them were murdered.

And it was rumoured abroad that the king had commanded that all the Jews should be destroyed ; and the tumult increased exceedingly

ingly, and the Jews were destroyed in several cities of England with terrible slaughter.

And Richard the king prepared a great army for the holy land; and to support this expedition, he extorted money from his subjects by all manner of ways, and the priests were instructed to preach up the great merit of this pious undertaking, and the duty of supporting it.

And he set sail for the holy land, with the richest and most powerful fleet that the English had ever seen; and he came to an anchor at Messina in Sicily, on the three and twentieth day of the month September.

And Tancred the bastard, then king of Sicily, had imprisoned Joanna the sister of Richard, whom he had taken to wife: king Richard therefore assembled his forces together, assaulted the city, and took it.

And in his way to Jerusalem he conquered also the island of Cyprus.

And he overcame Saladin the Turk in many battles, and he took from him three thousand camels, and four thousand horses and mules: he took also the towns of Ascalon, Joppa, and Cæsarea, and behaved in all things with exceeding great courage, inso-much that the glory of the king of England eclipsed the glory of all the christian princes.

And

And it came to pass after he returned from the holy land, as he sat at meat in his palace, word was brought unto him that Philip king of France had laid siege to one of his towns.

Then Richard the king was exceedingly enraged, and he swore in his wrath he would not turn his face till he came to the army of Philip.

And he caused the wall of the room where he was sitting to be broken down, and he assembled his army together, and came up with the French; and he discomfited them, and put them to flight, and he overthrew with his own hand three of the most hardy knights of France.

Wherefore he took for his motto these words, *Dieu Et mon droit*; and this device is used by the kings of England unto this day.

And a certain outlaw named Robin Hood, infested the forest of Sherwood in those days, insomuch that none might pass that way without his leave.

Howbeit, he was a charitable thief, giving unto the poor what he took from the rich; and the blood of man he did not shed.

And Richard reigned over England nine years and nine months, and he was wounded with an arrow at the siege of the castle of

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Chalons,

Chalons, and the wound mortified, and he died thereof, and John his brother reigned in his stead.

JOHN.

AND John came not to the crown by hereditary right, he received it from the hands of Hubert the high priest, who, in his oration before the assembly of the people, declared, that, by all reason, divine and human, none ought to succeed in the kingdom, but who should be, for the worthiness of his virtues, universally chosen by the people as was this man.

Nevertheless his virtues are not recorded, neither do we read of this his election, peradventure it was a lie.

And it came to pass that Hubert the high priest died, and Grey bishop of Norwich was elected by king John to succeed him.

But this election was opposed by the pope in favour of Stephen Langton, a cardinal, whom when John refused to admit, a quarrel ensued betwixt the pope and the king; inso-much that the whole nation was laid under an interdict, the king was excommunicated, his subjects were absolved from their obedience, and all divine ordinances ceased, the
burying-

burying-places were shut up, the dead were cast out as dogs, and remained unburied upon the face of the earth.

Howbeit this severity brake not the spirit of John, nor humbled him a jot.

And in his wrath he sware, by the teeth of God, he would be revenged on the pope, and on all that took part with him.

Accordingly he banished the bishops from the kingdom, and confiscated the lands and goods of all the priests that obeyed the interdict.

Then the pope sent messengers unto Philip the king of France, and they addressed him, saying :

O Philip, thus saith the pope : As thou regardest the remission of thy sins, assemble now thy army together, and drive out king John from the throne of England, and thou and thy sons after thee shall possess it for ever.

And Philip raised an army, and prepared to invade England.

Then John was sore troubled, and his heart smote him, and he humbled himself before Pandolphus the legate of the pope, and he took the crown from off his head, and laid it at the feet of Pandolphus.

He resigned also his kingdom unto the pope, and he took an oath that he and his

successors should hold it from the see of Rome, at the annual tribute of a thousand marks of silver.

Thus ended the contest between the temporal and spiritual sword; and John returned to the bosom of the church, and continued a dutiful son all the days of his life.

Wherefore the holy father supported him against his subjects in all manner of wickedness and oppression.

And he vexed them daily with new taxes and impositions, insomuch that the barons and great men of the kingdom at length made war against him, in behalf of their rights and liberties.

Now these were called the barons' wars; and the sword of justice prevailed, and they compelled the king to confirm their ancient privileges, and he signed a charter of rights, which is called Magna Charta unto this day.

Thus wicked princes are sometimes the instruments of good to a people whom the Lord loveth.

Now the rest of the acts of king John, and all that he did, are they not recorded in the book of Baker the historian?

And John reigned over England eighteen years and five months, and he died, and Henry his son reigned in his stead.

HENRY

HENRY III.

AND Henry was nine years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England fifty and five years, and his mother's name was Isabel.

Now the acts of king Henry, and all the foolish things that he did, behold they are written in the book of Speed the historian.

He that hath patience to read, let him read.

And Henry lived all the days of his life, and he died, and Edward his son reigned in his stead.

EDWARD I.

AND Edward became a great prince, and was called Long-shanks.

And he conquered the kingdom of Wales, and overthrew Lewellin the king in battle, and slew him, and cut off his head, and crowned it with ivy, and set it upon the tower of London as a terror to Wales.

And great fear came upon all Welchmen, and they submitted themselves unto Edward, and the two nations became as one people unto this day.

And it came to pass that Alexander, king of Scotland died, and great contentions arose between the lords Baliol and Bruce who should be king.

And the matter was referred unto Edward, and he gave it in favour of Baliol, and Baliol was made king, and did homage to Edward for his whole kingdom.

And Edward the king treated king Baliol with great haughtiness; wherefore the anger of Baliol was kindled, and he sent messengers unto the pope, and got himself absolved from the oaths he had taken to king Edward, and renounced his sovereignty.

Then Edward the king raised an army, and marched against him, and Baliol was taken prisoner, and carried to the tower of London.

And Edward conquered the kingdom of Scotland, and subjected it unto him; and he burnt the records of the kingdom, and he seized the crown and the scepter, and the regalia, and brought them away:

And the stone also which was Jacob's pillow, and the chair of wood which enclosed it, and it is the coronation chair unto this day.

And Edward the king enacted divers good laws and useful ordinances: and he laid great
fines

ines on many of his judges and other magistrates for their corruption; and he raised from their crimes two hundred and thirty six thousand marks.

He banished also the Jews, to the number of fifteen thousand, and confiscated their goods.

And Edward reigned over England thirty and four years, seven months, and twenty days; and he died, and Edward his son reigned in his stead.

EDWARD II.

Now Edward was a wicked prince, and did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord.

And he made unto himself two idols: and the name of the one was Gaveston, and the name of the other was Spencer.

And he set them up in his high places, and commanded them to be worshipped.

Howbeit certain of the nobles and great men of the kingdom refused to bow down before the idols, which Edward the king had set up.

Moreover they plucked them down from their high places, and dashed them in pieces, and utterly destroyed them.

Nevertheless

Nevertheless the king repented not, neither turned he from the evil of his ways; wherefore they took from him the crown, and the scepter, and the royal robes, and they deposed him from the government of the kingdom, after he had reigned over England nineteen years, six months, and fifteen days; and Edward his son reigned in his stead.

EDWARD III.

AND Edward was fourteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England fifty years, and his mother's name was Isabella.

And she took upon her the government of the kingdom during the infancy of her son: and her heart lusted after idols, and after all the abominations of her husband.

And she made unto herself an idol, and called its name Mortimer; and she fell down before it, and worshipped with great zeal, day and night.

Howbeit when Edward the king became of age, he was greatly offended at the abominations of his mother: wherefore he put her in prison, and he plucked down the idol
which

which she had set up, and he hung it on a tree, even the tree of Tyburn.

And Edward became a great and mighty king, and begat a son, and called him after his own name: moreover he was afterwards furnamed the Black Prince, and he waxed strong and valiant, and became a mighty warrior in the land.

And he fought the battles of his father, and he conquered the kingdom of France, and took prisoner the king thereof, with his son and many of the nobles.

And Edward the king took on him the sovereignty of France, and he quartered the arms of the kingdom; and his successors are called kings of France unto this day.

And the Black Prince restored also to his kingdom Peter king of Castile, and defeated his enemies.

Howbeit, as it is written of old, *the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong*, a distemper took him, and he died in the forty and sixth year of his age; and the glory of Edward his father from that time forth diminished.

And Edward reigned over England fifty years, and he died, and Richard his grandson reigned in his stead.

RICHARD II.

AND Richard was a wicked prince, and did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, oppressing the people, and loading them with grievous impositions.

And he laid a tax on the heads of all his subjects, from fifteen years old and upwards, of what sex or condition soever, which was called the poll-tax, and it was collected with great strictness and severity.

And it came to pass, that one of the tax-gatherers came to the house of a certain tyler at the town of Darford in Kent, commonly called Wat the tyler, and demanded the tax for one of his daughters.

And Wat the tyler said unto him, Nay verily, but thou shouldst not demand the tax of my daughter, for the maiden is not yet fifteen years old.

Howbeit the tax-gatherer believed not the words of her father, for the virgin was fair and comely to look on.

Wherefore he stooped down, and put his hand beneath the garments of the maiden, to see if peradventure the signs of her womanhood might not appear; and he discovered her nakedness.

And

And the virgin was covered with shame, infomuch that she spake not a word.

But the impudence of the thing incensed her father, and his indignation kindled against the officer, and he had a hammer in his hand, with which he strake him on the head that his brains came out.

And immediately a great tumult arose, and all the people defended the action of Wat the tyler, and praised his courage: moreover they chose him for their captain, and determined to abolish the tax.

And they marched in a body and encamped on Black-Heath, and he was joined there by Jack Straw, and their number encreased to an hundred thousand men.

And a certain priest named Ball, was chaplain to the army, and he preached to the multitude from these words;

When Adam delv'd and Eve span,
Who was then a gentleman?

From hence he taught them that all men were born equal, that it was never the design of heaven that one part of mankind should be the slaves and vassals of the other; and therefore exhorted them to destroy the nobility, the clergy, the magistrates, and all who pretended to lord it over them.

With

With these pious resolutions they marched to London, and encamped on Tower-Hill, plundering and burning the houses of all whom they thought their enemies.

And they set fire to the Temple, and burnt and destroyed the writings of all the lawyers; they burned also the palace and all the rich furniture of the duke of Lancaster in the Savoy.

And they dragged from the churches and from the altars many who had fled for refuge, and slew them in the streets.

And they strake off the head of Simon Sudbury archbishop of Canterbury, and Hales the high treasurer, and many more on Tower-Hill.

Then the king sent messengers unto them, desiring to know what they would have: and Wat the tyler demanded to speak with the king in person.

Then Richard the king, attended by many of his nobles, and the mayor and the aldermen of London, went forth to meet him, and they met him in Smithfield.

And he behaved with great arrogance, and his demands were so extravagant that the king knew not what answer to make unto him.

Moreover

Moreover he commanded the squire who held the sword of the king to deliver it to him: howbeit the squire took courage and refused to deliver it, saying, The sword of a king would ill become the hand of a knave.

Now Wat the tyler was vexed at this saying, and he advanced with his sword to slay the squire.

Then William Walworth, the mayor of London, was exceedingly enraged at the insolence of the tyler, and he smote him with a dagger that he died: wherefore the dagger was added to the arms of the city.

Thus ended the insurrection of Wat Tyler and Jack Straw; and all the rabble returned each to his own house.

And Richard the king made unto himself idols, and the thing displeased the people, and they took the crown from off his head, and put it on the head of Henry duke of Lancaster, the son of John of Gaunt.

HENRY IV.

AND Henry was thirty and three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England thirteen years, five months, and one and twenty days.

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And

And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as most of his fathers had done.

Howbeit he made an act for burning of hereticks; and they that could not believe as the church commanded, were tied to a stake till the flames consumed them; and for this he was called by the priests and the monks, the writers of that time, a pious and religious prince.

And he was seized with an apoplexy, and he died, and Henry his son reigned in his stead.

HENRY V.

AND Henry was a valiant prince, and a great warriour.

And he laid claim to the crown of France, and marched into the kingdom with an army of thirty thousand men, taking the town of Harfleur, with many other strong towns.

And he defeated the French army at the battle of Agincourt, and slew to the number of sixty thousand men. And the Lord fought for him, and the whole kingdom was given into his hands, and he appointed John duke of Bedford the regent thereof.

And it came to pass that the doctrines of Wickliffe the preacher, who had been condemned

demned as an heretick, began now to spread over England, and prevailed much.

And the tenets he taught were these: That the bread and wine in the sacrament of the altar, still continued to be bread and wine after the consecration of the priest; that the worship of images was idolatry, and a great sin; that pilgrimages, penances, and confessions to the priests were not at all necessary to salvation, but only a good life.

And great fear came upon all priests, lest the eyes of the people should be opened, and their craft exposed: wherefore they besought the king that he would join with them in extirpating out of the land all who should teach or profess these dangerous truths.

And Sir John Oldcastle lord Cobham, a man of virtue and great reputation, with Sir Robert Acton, and many others, were hanged and burnt in Smithfield for professing the same.

Thus truth was defeated, and ignorance again prevailed in the land; the priests and the levites triumphed, and the minds of the people were cloathed in darkness, and fed with error.

And Henry reigned over England thirty and four years, and he died, and Henry his son reigned in his stead.

HENRY VI.

AND Henry was eight months old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England thirty and nine years, and his mother's name was Catharine.

And he proved a weak and unfortunate prince, losing by his misconduct all that Henry his father had won.

And in these days there appeared a false prophetess, named Joan of Arc; and she called herself the *maid of God*, and pretended to be sent from heaven to deliver the kingdom of France from the English yoke.

And she wrought miracles, and performed many wonderful things.

She raised also the siege of Orleans, and defeated the English wherever she came, inso-much that the French believed her to be conducted by the finger of God; but the English thought her sent from the devil, and the soldiers began to be terrified at her presence.

Howbeit, she was at length taken by the English at the city of Roan in Normandy; and she was convicted of witchcraft, and they burnt her there, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, *Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.*

In

In this reign began the cruel war betwixt the two houses of York and Lancaster, where brother fought with brother, the father against his son, and the son against his father, till the rivers flowed with the blood thereof, and rage and slaughter made desolate the land.

At length Edward Plantagenet duke of York, having overthrown the king in many battles and taken him prisoner, deposed him from the government, and was crowned king of England.

EDWARD IV.

AND Edward was nineteen years old when he came to the crown, and he was tall and well favoured, and of an exceeding graceful presence.

Moreover he was a prince of great courage and wisdom, and he set himself to enact good laws, and reform the abuses in his government.

And he sate in the court of justice three days himself that he might be a witness how his laws were executed.

And many more good qualities had Edward; howbeit he lusted after women exceedingly.

And it came to pass that Matthew Shore, a goldsmith in London, had taken to wife the most beautiful virgin in all the city.

And the fame of her beauty reached the ears of the king, and he disguised himself as a merchant, and went to the house of Shore, pretending to buy jewels.

And when he saw how exceeding fair she was, he discovered himself, and took her home to his bed, and she lived in adultery with him all the days of his life.

In his reign was born Thomas Parr, of the county of Salop, who lived during the reign of ten kings, even to the days of king Charles I. when he died, being an hundred fifty and two years old.

And Edward reigned twenty and three years, and he died, and was buried in his own tomb at Windsor, and Edward his son reigned in his stead.

EDWARD V.

AND Edward was eleven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England nine weeks and three days, and was murdered in the tower by his uncle Richard, the crooked duke of Gloucester.

RICHARD

RICHARD III.

AND Richard took on him the government of the kingdom, and set the crown upon his own head.

And in order to clear his way to the throne, and secure to himself the possession thereof, he murdered all who stood in his way.

Wherefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against him, and he smote him by the hand of Henry earl of Richmond, of the house of York, and he died in the field of battle, even Bosworth field.

Thus ended the war betwixt the two houses of York and Lancaster, after twelve pitched battles had been fought, in which there were slain two kings, one prince, ten dukes, two marquisses, twenty one earls, twenty seven lords, two viscounts, one lord prior, one judge, one hundred and thirty three knights, four hundred and forty one esquires, and eighty four thousand nine hundred ninety and eight private soldiers.

And they took the crown from the head of king Richard, and put it on the head of Henry earl of Richmond: and all the army shouted for joy, and they cried out, *Long live king Henry the seventh.*

And

And they laid the body of Richard on a horse, and brought it to the city of Leicester and it was buried there, and Henry of Richmond reigned in his stead.

HENRY VII.

Now Henry was a wise and politick prince, and he set himself, by all manner of ways, to secure the throne to himself and his successors for ever.

And he extorted from his subjects great sums of money, and filled his coffers, and the whole study of his life was to heap up riches.

To this end he made use of two men, and the name of the one was Empson, and the name of the other was Dudley.

And he gave them authority to plunder and oppress his subjects; and they exercised all manner of injustice upon them, accusing the innocent of crimes, and amercing and fining them in great sums without trial, converting law and justice into rapine and cruelty.

Now whether it were out of an affectation of state and grandeur, or peradventure that he feared some sudden attempt upon his person, (for he was not beloved of the people,)
he

he appointed a band of tall men to attend him, called the yeomen of the guard, which all the kings of England since have kept unto this day.

And in his reign there arose two impostors one after the other, laying claim to the crown of England,

And the name of the one was Simnel, a baker's son; and the name of the other was Perkin Warbeck; each pretending to be Richard duke of York, brother to king Edward the fifth.

Howbeit the first was quickly suppressed, and after having been crowned king in Dublin, had the honour to be made king Henry's turnspit.

As to the other, after many honours done him in the courts of France, Spain and Scotland, as a prince of the royal blood, he was at last advanced to the pinnacle of Tyburn.

In these days a strange disease arose, and was called the sweating sickness; and it continued for the space of a month, and swept away great numbers.

And Henry reigned over England twenty and three years, and eight months, and he died, and Henry his son reigned in his stead.

HENRY VIII.



AND Henry was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England thirty and eight years, and his mother's name was Elizabeth.

And he gat the love of his subjects in the beginning of his reign by causing to be executed as traytors and oppressors, those wicked instruments of his father, Empson and Dudley.

Moreover he won favour in their eyes, by spending among them in balls and shows, and sumptuous feasts, those immense treasures, which had been drained from them, and hoarded up in the coffers of his father.

And in these days the iniquity of the popedom was arrived at its full height, insomuch that indulgences for all manner of crimes were publickly sold for money; and all kinds of people, how vile and profligate soever, were promised everlasting happiness on purchasing them.

Now the impiety of these things provoked the indignation of Martin Luther, and he exposed the absurdity of them in many books. Moreover he censured the usurpation of the pope, and made a mock of his authority.

Then

Then Henry the king wrote an answer to Martin Luther, defending the pope, and from henceforth he and his successors are honoured with the title of *Defender of the faith*.

Howbeit he afterwards threw off the pope's authority, and departed from many of the errors of the church of Rome.

Wherefore the thunder of the pope was levelled against him, and he was excommunicated; his subjects also were absolved from their obedience, and all the princes of Europe were excited to make war upon him.

But Henry was beloved at home, and feared abroad; wherefore the thunder of the pope was despised, neither was he terrified with all the fiery bolts of his wrath.

And Henry took unto himself six wives, but they pleased him not; wherefore he accused them of incontinence and divers crimes, and put them away. Moreover he beheaded some, and some he put in prison, and he dealt cruelly with them.

And it came to pass, when a certain priest in one of his sermons defended the king in this matter, that all the women of the town rose up against him, and they stoned him with stones, and drove him from amongst them.

And Henry slept with his fathers, and Edward his son reigned in his stead.

EDWARD

EDWARD VI.

Now Edward was nine years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England six years and five months.

And he was a pious prince, and he loved the truth, and promoted the reformation which Henry his father had begun.

Howbeit he was cut off as a flower in its bud, or as a rose in the morning sun; his days also were as a span, and the years of his reign as a shadow that passeth away; but his memory smelleth sweet for ever.

And he appointed for his successor the lady Jane Grey, and she was proclaimed queen; but the party of Mary prevailing, Jane was beheaded in the tower of London, and Mary his sister reigned in her stead.

MARY.

AND Mary adhered to the church of Rome, and she revived the errors thereof, and restored all the ancient forms and foolish ceremonies.

Moreover she was of a cruel nature, and she persecuted unto death all who opposed
her

her doctrines, and her reign stinketh of blood unto this day.

Old men and children, young men and maidens, they also that gave suck, with the infant at the breast, she burned at the stake ; and the fire of persecution was not quenched all the days of her life.

But the vengeance of the Lord overtook her, and she was torn from the face of the earth as a bramble that choaketh the field, and her name is an abomination.

And from the time that she was crowned, to the day which the Lord smote her with sickness, was five years and four months, and she died, and Elizabeth her sister reigned in her stead.

ELIZABETH.

Now Elizabeth was twenty and five years old when she began to reign, and she reigned over England forty and four years, four months, and seven days, and her mother's name was Anna Bullen.

And she chose unto herself wise and able ministers ; and governed her kingdom with power and great glory.

The sea also was subject unto her, and she reigned on the ocean with a mighty hand.

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Her

Her admirals compassed the world about,
and brought her home treasures from the
uttermoſt parts of the earth.

And woe unto you Spaniards; woe unto
you, ye haughty uſurpers of the American
ſeas; for ſhe came upon your armado as a
whirlwind, and as a tempeſt of thunder ſhe
overwhelmed you in the ſea.

She ſpoke, and it was war; ſhe waved
her hand, and the nations dwelt in peace.

Her miniſters were juſt, her counſellors
were ſage; her captains were bold, and her
maids of honour ate beef-ſteaks for breakfast.

And Elizabeth ſlept with her fathers, and
was buried in the chapel of king Henry the
ſeventh, and James of Scotland reigned in
her ſtead.

JAMES I.

AND Jamie thought himſelf a bonny king,
and a mickle wiſe mon. Howbeit he was a
fool and a pedant.

But the ſpirit of flattery went forth in the
land, and the great men and the biſhops of-
fered incenſe unto him.

And the ear of James was tickled there-
with, and he was puffed up, and he thought
himſelf wiſe; whereupon he began to diſpute
with

with the doctors, and to decide controversies, and to write books; and the world was undeceived.

Howbeit a new translation of the bible was set on foot in his reign, and it was executed with great care and exactness, and the same is read by the people unto this day.

In this reign also the two kingdoms of England and Scotland were united together, and he gave unto them the name of Great Britain; and the two nations became as one people.

Moreover he issued a proclamation to enforce the act of uniformity; and of ten thousand pious ministers that dispensed the word, but forty and nine were found that did not conform.

And the forty and nine who had consciences were suspended; but the nine thousand fifty and one who had no conscience, were continued as faithful ministers of the word.

And it came to pass in the third year of his reign, that a most grievous plot was contrived, to destroy him with gunpowder.

Howbeit the wisdom of James was greater than the wisdom of the contrivers, and he smelled out their plot, and prevented it.

And James was glad that he was alive, therefore he appointed the fifth day of the

month November as a day of thanksgiving for ever. And bonfires are made, and squibs and crackers are let off in the streets, in derision of the gunpowder plot unto this day.

And James believed himself a great king, and conceived high notions of the royal prerogative; insomuch that he looked upon the parliament as a troublesome and unnecessary thing; and thought it extremely hard, that so great a king should be bound by the laws of the land, or his coronation oath, or that he should be obliged to call a parliament to make laws, when he might do it alone by his absolute power.

Moreover he approved the book of doctor Blackwood, which laid it down as a principle, that the English were all slaves by reason of the Norman conquest.

With these notions he poisoned himself and his son, and laid the foundation of those troubles which ended in the ruin of his family.

And it came to pass in these days that a certain impostor, named Richard Hadock, pretended to preach in his sleep.

But the king discovered the cheat, and commanded him in all places to declare himself an impostor.

Howbeit the race of reverend sleepers continue, and infest the land with large long-laboured

laboured volumes of heavy and somniferous lumber unto this day.

Now the rest of the acts of king James, and his wisdom, and his learning, and all the books that he wrote, behold thou mayest find them in the chandlers shops unto this day.

And James slept with his fathers, after he had reigned over England twenty and two years, and Charles his son reigned in his stead.

CHARLES I.

AND Charles was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England twenty and two years, and ten months, and his mother's name was Anne.

And he was a pious and religious prince, and wrote many godly books; hymns also and prayers, and sundry meditations were the works of his hands.

Howbeit he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, in following the steps of his father, and aspiring to absolute power.

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against him, and he caused a spirit of discontent to go forth among the people, and they came unto the king and besought him, saying:

Most gracious sovereign! incline thine ears, we beseech thee, unto the voice of thy people, and let their cry come unto thee: behold we are a free people, we and our fathers have been freemen unto this day.

Wherefore now then are we oppressed with arbitrary power, with forced loans, with tonnage and poundage, with ship money, and with divers taxes imposed on us without the authority of parliament?

Howbeit this remonstrance pleased not the king, neither was he moved therewith, except unto wrath; moreover he dissolved the parliament, and continued in his evil ways.

Then the anger of the people waxed great, and they said among themselves, The king is ill advised, his counsellors are naught; let us remove the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

So they accused Villiers, duke of Buckingham, who was the king's prime favourite and chief minister, of divers crimes and misdemeanors; and most humbly besought the king, that he would be graciously pleased to remove this person from access to his sacred presence.

Nevertheless their petition was rejected; and the king commanded it to be consumed
with

with fire, and all the copies thereof to be destroyed. And he protected his favourite from the public rage.

Howbeit he escaped not the hand of justice; for Felton the lieutenant smote him to the heart that he died.

And it came to pass in these days, that great troubles arose in England on account of religion: many being smitten with the tinsel beauties of the church of Rome, went a whoring after her gods, and gave up their hearts unto the lusts thereof.

And forasmuch as many tokens of his love appeared, it was thought that Laud the archbishop was corrupted by her fornications, that he had bowed the knee unto her idols, and lusted in his heart after her abominations.

Moreover he was suspected of debauching the king into this lewd amour, and imposing on his royal affections with the paint and patches of this inveigling harlot. Wherefore the people rose up against Laud, and in the fury of their zeal they put him to death.

And it came to pass that the whole kingdom was possessed by two evil spirits, the spirit of prelacy, and the spirit of fanaticism. And the two spirits strove together with great fury, and the land was involved in blood and confusion.

Howbeit

Howbeit the spirit of fanaticism prevailed, and the king was discomfited and taken prisoner, and committed to the prison of Carisbrook castle in the isle of Wight.

And the enemies of the king erected a new court of justice for his trial, and they brought an accusation against him, saying,

He hath endeavoured to destroy the rights and liberties of the people, and to rule with an unlimited and tyrannical power; for which end he hath levied war against the parliament of England and the people thereof, and hath been the cause of all the blood which hath been shed in the land.

Now Charles denied the jurisdiction of this court, and demanded to know by what authority he was brought before them, or by what law of England he could be tried. But they answered him not a word.

Howbeit a solemn fast was appointed, to seek the Lord, and beg his direction in the murder of the king.

Moreover an inspired virgin was brought out of Hertfordshire, who pretended a revelation from heaven to encourage the saints in their pious work.

So they proceeded to this trial, and condemned him as a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and a publick enemy to the common-wealth
of

of England, to be put to death by severing his head from his body.

And on the 30th day of the first month, which is called January, a scaffold was built before the gates of his own palace, and he was brought thereon, and his head was cut off and showed unto the people. And some rejoiced, but many suppressed the groans which they durst not utter.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

AND it came to pass after the death of king Charles, that the commons passed an act for annulling the house of lords, and abolishing the regal power as useless, burthenfome, and dangerous; and the government of England was changed into a commonwealth.

And the duke of Hamilton, the earl of Holland, the lord Capel, and many others, who had been of the king's party, were put to death.

Moreover it was enacted, that all who possessed any publick post, should take out fresh grants, and new oaths, to qualify themselves for holding the same.

This grand alteration in the government occasioned also many others. The oaths of
allegiance

allegiance and supremacy were abolished: justice was no longer administered in the king's name, but in the names of the keepers of the liberties of England: A new council of state, consisting of thirty nine persons, was chosen for the administration of publick affairs under the parliament: New money was coined, and a new great seal was made; on one side of which was seen the parliament sitting, with this inscription, *The great seal of the parliament of the commonwealth of England*; on the other side the arms of England and Ireland, with these words, *The first year of freedom by God's blessing restored*. And this seal was committed to a certain number of persons, who were stiled *Keepers of the liberties of Great Britain*.

Many also were the changes that were made in religion. Episcopacy was abolished, the common prayer despised; canting and hypocrisy, and doing all kinds of wickedness in the name of the Lord, were the signs of grace; and every one worshipped God after the foolishness of his own heart.

Howbeit the son of king Charles who had fled beyond the seas, was invited into Scotland, where he was proclaimed king; and he raised an army of eighteen thousand men, and

and marched into England to the city of Worcester, and encamped there.

And Cromwell with an army of thirty thousand men pursued him to the gates thereof, and assaulted the city and took it; and the army of the king was discomfited, and many were slain by the edge of the sword.

Nevertheless he fell not into the hands of his enemies, neither was he taken in their snares.

And it came to pass that he was pursued into the middle of a wood called Boscobel, and he got up into a tree and concealed himself, that his pursuers passed by and saw him not.

And the tree is called the royal oak unto this day.

In a barn also he hid himself; two days and two nights concealed he himself from the rage of his enemies; straw only was his bed, and he was fed by the hand of a poor woman with buttermilk and bread.

Moreover he stripped off his royal robes, and disguised himself in poor array; his hands also and his face he dyed with walnuts; a hempen shirt was next his skin, and his outward garment was a leathern doublet: in the night also he fled, in the darkness of the night he escaped.

Many

Many other disguises put he on, and many other perils did he encounter; now on a miller's horse with dusty bags, and now before a country dame on horseback; till at last arriving at the sea side, he escaped to France in a small vessel belonging to a poor fisherman.

Mean time the power of Cromwell encreased, and his glory grew unto the height; insomuch that he set himself at the head of the commonwealth, and was called the protector thereof.

OLIVER CROMWELL,

PROTECTOR.

Now Cromwell was a valiant man, but his character is doubtful, whether he was a righteous man or a rogue; neither is it determined by which appellation to call him unto this day: Peradventure he was a mixture of both.

Those who speak evil of him say, that he set up himself as an idol, and made the very streets of London like unto the valley of Hinnom, by burning the bowels of men as a sacrifice to his Molockship: that his pretence was freedom for all men, and that by
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the help of that pretence he made all men his slaves, setting up himself above all that were ever called sovereign in England: that he summoned parliaments with a word of his pen, and dispersed them again with the breath of his mouth: that he took arms against taxes of scarce two hundred thousand pounds a year, and raised them himself to above two millions: that under the pretence of reforming religion, he robbed it even to the skin, and then exposed it naked to the rage of all sects and heresies: that he fought against the king under a commission for him, and then took him forcibly out of the hands of those for whom he had conquered him, and butchered him in the open face of the whole world, with as little shame as conscience or humanity.

Thus he is made a monster of baseness, ingratitude, hypocrisy, rebellion, and usurpation.

Howbeit there are others who defend him; saying, He was an illustrious warrior, a great politician, a man of the most consummate prudence, and who had the heart of making himself both feared and respected: that if his government be compared with those of the two last kings, there will appear a very great disparity with regard to the glory and

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reputation

reputation of the English nation : that he made himself equally dreaded by France and Spain, and the United Provinces, who all courted his friendship with such ardour, that they may be said to have cringed to him beyond what was becoming : that if his ambition led him to aggrandize himself, it also led him to advance the glory of the English name, and the terror of their arms, even to the pitch of Roman greatness : that as to his morals, he was guilty of few of the vices to which men are commonly addicted ; gluttony, drunkenness, gaming, luxury and avarice, were crimes with which he was never reproached : and as to his religion, his principle was, to leave every man at liberty, and to persecute no one on that account : In fine, that by his great capacity and uncommon abilities he raised himself to the supreme dignity, supported himself in it with great glory, and dying in peace, bequeathed it to his posterity.

And now behold, he that was a monster is become an hero ! Wherefore, gentle reader, out of the two characters here given, thou mayest form such a one as seemeth best in thine eyes, and call him Oliver Cromwell.

Now the rest of the acts of this ruler, and the surprizing things that he did, behold they

they are written in the books of the chronicles of the kings of England.

And Cromwell slept with his fathers, and was buried in the chapel of Henry the seventh, and Richard his son was protector in his stead.

RICHARD CROMWELL,

PROTECTOR.

AND it came to pass that the man Richard was presently found to be incapable of the reins of government; he had neither capacity to manage, judgment to guide, nor resolution to hold them; wherefore the parliament took from him the protectorship, and deposed him from the government.

And now the commonwealth was left to drive at random, the government being sometimes administered by a council of officers, and sometimes by a thing called a committee of safety, and great confusion ensued in the land.

And there dwelt a man in the northern part of the island which is called Scotland, whose name was Monk: moreover he was the governor thereof, and a great warrior.

Now this man, taking advantage of the publick distractions, assembled an army and

marched to London, declaring for a restoration of the king.

And the people were terrified at his presence, or peradventure they were wearied with perpetual changes and commotions; wherefore they agreed to his proposals, and sent messengers unto the king, who was then in Holland, desiring his return.

And it came to pass 'on the 29th day of the fifth month, which is called May, that the king was conducted in great state to his palace at Whitehall, and all the people shouted, saying, *Long live the king.*

CHARLES II.

Now as many enormous crimes had been committed by men of all degrees, insomuch that it was apprehended great numbers, not thinking themselves safe, would depart out of the land; the first thing that the king set himself to do was to publish an act of indemnity.

Howbeit, he excepted out of it forty and nine persons, who had been principally concerned in the murder of his father. Nevertheless only ten of them were executed.

And the king repealed all laws that had been made in favour of a popular government;

ment; moreover he restored the ancient discipline of the church, and replaced the bishops in their former dignity and jurisdiction.

About this time an insurrection happened in London, set on foot by a small remnant of enthusiasts, not more than fifty, in order to destroy all the monarchies of the earth.

These mad religionists were called *fifth monarchy men*, who by reading the prophecies of Daniel, and the revelations of John, had persuaded themselves that the time of our Saviour's visible reign on earth was come; and therefore it was their duty to take up arms for king JESUS against the powers of the world, and that no weapon formed against them should prosper, but that one should chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight.

Howbeit these miserable men were deluded, being cut off in the city by the edge of the sword, even by the train-bands of the city were they destroyed.

Now it came to pass that Charles gave a loose to his appetites, and indulged himself in all manner of delights; and he sent forth his pimps and his nobles throughout all the land, to search for the most beautiful women that could be found.

And they ministered unto the king according to his wishes; and the land was filled with royal ballads.

Moreover the nation taking example from the court, ran headlong into all manner of licentiousness and immorality. And having seen in the former reign all kinds of wickedness committed under the mask of piety, the least appearance thereof was now thought hypocrisy.

All the wit of the nation was turned to the ridicule of religion and morality. The stage became a school of debauchery; and even the pulpit, fearing to be too grave for the times, abounded with wit: And whereas before they used to seek the Lord and implore his direction even in the most trifling affairs, it was now deemed almost superstitious to believe in him.

But the anger of the Lord was kindled against the king and against the people of England, and he smote the land with a dreadful pestilence, insomuch that there died in one year upwards of sixty and seven thousand persons: moreover in the following year a terrible fire fell on the city of London, which in four days time consumed the greatest part thereof.

Nevertheless

Nevertheless these judgments made no impression on the spirit of Charles, who abandoned himself to his pleasures, and was carried away so violently by his lusts, that his whole time and his treasures were spent amongst harlots; and all matters relating to the government of his kingdoms were left unto the management of his brother the duke of York.

And Charles was guided by his brother in all things, insomuch that the people murmured greatly. Wherefore Killigrew the jester reported unto the courtiers, saying, The king is very ill and hath got a fore nose.

Then went the courtiers in unto the king and condoled with him, saying, We are sorry to hear your majesty hath got a fore nose. Whereat the king marvelled greatly, asking who told them so? And they answered and said, Killigrew told us.

Then the king sent messengers unto Killigrew, commanding him to come before him: and when he was come, the king said unto him, Why saidest thou Killigrew, that I had got a fore nose? And Killigrew answered and said, I concluded it must be fore, because your majesty hath been led so long by it.

Howbeit the king liked not the jest; moreover he reprov'd his jester very severely. And
(whether

(whether it was thought that majesty was too serious a joke to be laughed at, lest peradventure it should be made ridiculous ; or that it was of too dangerous example, as it might sometimes set the whole nation a laughing at the king's expence ; but) from that day no jester hath been kept in the king's court, only plain and solemn fools.

Now the rest of the acts of king Charles the second, and his wit, and his gallantries, and all his intrigues, behold thou mayest find them in bawdy novels unto this day.

And Charles slept with his fathers, after he had reigned over England from the time of his restoration twenty and four years, eight months and nine days, and James his brother reigned in his stead.

JAMES II.

Now James was a worshipper of the church of Rome, he bowed the knee unto her idols, and went a whoring after all her abominations: her bowings, her washings, her sprinklings, her holy vestments, her incense, her ointments, her absolutions, her masses, her crosses, her idols, her miracles, her lies.

Moreover he was a zealous bigot to all the absurd and foolish tenets, which the cunning
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of her priests have invented to delude the ignorant and enslave the mighty.

Nevertheless, when he ascended the throne of England, he made a speech to the people, declaring he would support the constitution both in church and state, as it was by law established.

Howbeit he afterwards thought fit to act contrary to this declaration in every instance, peradventure he made it with a mental reservation for that very purpose.

And it came to pass, that the duke of Monmouth rebelled against him, and entered the land with an army; but he was defeated and taken prisoner, and his head was smitten off on Tower Hill.

Many of his soldiers also were taken, inso much that the prisons of the west were filled therewith.

And Jefferies the judge was appointed to try them: and behold it was judgment without mercy; he looked on them, and they were condemned; he opened his lips, and it was death unto them.

Yea, so great was his cruelty, that when their eyes rolled in the agonies of death, then he mocked; and when their legs quivered in the air, then he sent for musick, and called it dancing. Wherefore let his
name

name perish from the face of the earth, and let all his generation be hanged by the neck.

But woe unto thee, O Kirk †! woe unto thee thou barbarous insulter of wronged innocence! let thy sin be detested in all ages, and let thy name be accursed from generation to generation! for behold thou hast done iniquity in the sight of the Lord, the cry of thine abomination is gone up unto heaven; and it shall come to pass, that whosoever heareth thy tale shall curse thee.

Now the thing which he did was this:

It came to pass in the town of Taunton, that he had condemned an ancient man unto death, and he was to be executed on the sign post of the house where Kirk was sitting.

Then came the daughter of the poor old man, a lovely maiden, her cheeks were washed with tears as a rose in the morning-dew, and the look of her eye was innocence distressed.

And

† Major-general Kirk was appointed to attend on Jefferies in this bloody business with a troop of soldiers, to keep the people in awe, who hanged several by his own authority, without any trial. It was not possible for the king to find in the whole kingdom two men more destitute of religion, honour and humanity. They were two cruel and merciless tygers, that delighted in blood.

RAFIN.

And she threw herself at his feet, and embraced his knees for some time in silent grief, and in the utmost agony of heart.

At length, when words could find a passage, she lift up her eyes, still dropping with tears, and besought him, saying,

O save my father ! let not his grey hairs be dishonoured with a violent death ! alas he is an old man, and hath not many days to live ; suffer him to go down to the grave in peace, that my soul may bless thee.

Then Kirk commanded the virgin to arise, and he looked on her, and his heart was smitten with her beauties, insomuch that he burned to enjoy her. And he spake unto the maiden, saying, Behold now the life of thy father is in mine hand, and I can do unto him whatsoever seemeth good in mine eyes : howbeit, thy beauty hath softened mine heart ; if therefore thou wilt hearken unto my voice that I may enjoy thee, I swear unto thee his life shall be safe, not a hair of his head shall be in danger.

Then fell the maiden down at his feet, and bedewed the ground with her tears, and her anguish was very great ; and she said unto him, O take my life, my life I will give for my father's willingly ; but let not my lord desire this thing, do not this evil unto thine
handmaid :

handmaid : alas ! I am a poor virgin, mine innocence is mine only portion. I am besides my father's only child, and his heart is fond of me, he hath no other ; and if I do this thing, what benefit shall I have of his life ? for behold he will die with sorrow.

And her tears flowed so fast, that she could speak no more ; and she continued with her face towards the ground weeping.

But the heart of Kirk was hardened, and his soul was set in him to do evil ; and he spake unto the virgin, saying, If thou do not instantly comply, thy father dieth, nay I will hang him up before thy face, and thine eyes shall behold his agonies ; and he seemed to be going.

Then the damsel caught hold of the skirt of his garment, and she wept bitterly ; and so moving was her grief, that it would have melted any human heart. And she cried out, Kill not my father ! O let me speak ! I cannot see him die, indeed I cannot. Here grief once more stopt up her voice, and for sometime she could not speak or weep ; at length, lifting up her eyes, Forgive me, heaven, she cried ; father forgive me, I will save thy life, but I will not survive mine honour.

So she yielded unto him and was undone. For no sooner had he satiated himself with her

her ruined innocence, than he brought her to the window, and with an insulting smile showed her her father hanging on the sign-post.

Transfixt with grief and horror, she suddenly cried out—My father! O my father! what have I done!—Then she sunk upon the ground speechless and without motion: but life, unhappily for her, returned; she awakened from her trance all wild and distracted, nor did her senses ever return to her any more.

Many other cruelties did they commit, and many other barbarities; insomuch that the land stunk of blood, and the face of the earth looked dreadful with the quarters of men, which they hanged up in every place, as a terror to all that should oppose the measures of this violent and bigoted prince.

But it came to pass that James was so eager in his advances to popery and arbitrary power, that the great men and the nobles, and all the people, were alarmed at his proceedings: wherefore they sent over messengers privily unto William the prince of Orange, who had married the king's daughter, desiring his assistance, to preserve the religion and the liberties of the people.

Then William raised an army and came over to England; and great fear came upon James because of his misdoings. Wherefore

G

James

James fled from the presence of William, and became a fugitive all the days of his life.

Moreover his throne was declared vacant, and William his son-in-law reigned in his stead. This is the grand revolution, this is the epocha of English freedom.

WILLIAM III.

AND William was called the deliverer, in as much as by him the land was delivered from popery and arbitrary power, and the liberties of the people both civil and religious were settled and established upon a new foundation : the prerogatives of the crown were limited, and the rights of the subject were ascertained.

For the lords and the commons of England, on the day that they offered him the crown, explained also the conditions on which he must accept it, saying,

Thou shalt not suspend or dispense with laws, or the execution of laws, by royal authority, without consent of parliament, it is illegal.

Thou shalt not levy money for the use of the crown, by pretence of prerogative, it is illegal.

Thou

Thou shalt not infringe the right of the subjects to petition the king, neither shalt thou persecute or commit any one for such petitioning, it is illegal.

Thou shalt not keep a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with consent of parliament, it is illegal.

The election of members of parliament shall be free, and no freedom of speech and debate in parliament shall be impeached or questioned in any place or court out of parliament.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Jurors shall be duly impannelled and returned :

And finally, for redress of all grievances, and for the amending, strengthening, and preserving of the laws, parliaments shall frequently be held.

And we the people of England do claim, demand, and insist upon all these things as our undoubted rights and liberties.

And William was a wise prince, and he ruled the kingdom with power and great glory; howbeit he had many oppositions, and it was with great trouble that he managed the haughty spirits of the English.

Moreover he made war upon the French, and he led on his armies himself; and the hand of the Lord was with him, and he discomfited them by land and by sea in many battles.

Now the rest of the acts of king William, his courage at the Boyne, the grand alliance that he made, the projects that he formed, and the battles that he fought, behold they are written in the books of the chronicles of the kings of England.

And William reigned over England thirteen years and one month, and he died; and Anne his sister-in-law reigned in his stead,

ANNE.

Now Anne was thirty and seven years old when she began to reign; and she reigned over England twelve years and five months.

And she pursued the measures which William her predecessor had begun, in order to oblige king Lewis of France to recall his grandson Philip, whom he had seated on the throne of Spain, and to place that crown on the head of Charles, the emperor Leopold's second son.

Wherefore

Wherefore war was declared by the confederate powers of England, Holland, and Germany, against France and against Spain; and Marlborough the general was made commander of their armies; and he marched into Flanders and encamped there.

And he defeated the French wheresoever he came: In all the battles that he fought he conquered; and whatsoever town he besieged, it surrendered unto him.

Let Ramilies confess the wonders of his courage, let the siege of Lisle proclaim his conduct; Blenheim shall speak aloud the glory of his arms, and Oudenarde declare his invincible prowess; Tournay also shall remember him for ever, and bloody Malplaquet shall tremble at his name.

And great fear came upon all Frenchmen, and upon Lewis their king; wherefore he fought unto queen Anne for peace, and in an evil hour she hearkened unto him: A shameful peace was concluded at Utrecht, and the conquests of Marlborough were made in vain.

Now it came to pass in these days, that the land was divided between two famous giants! and the name of the one was Whiganza, and the name of the other was Toribundos. And there was enmity between the partizans of Whiganza, and the partizans

of Toribundos, insomuch that they spake of each other with great bitterness and many reproaches.

And the giant Toribundos sent forth an evil spirit in the shape of a priest, and he called his name Sacheverel; and when he was strongly possessed, he would rave of False Brethren, of Evil Communication, of Passive Obedience, of Non-Resistance, and many other absurdities.

Now the party of Toribundos adored him as a God; many pictures of him were taken, and prints of his face were dispersed in every corner; yea, so worthily was he distinguished, that the very piss-pots of the land displayed his countenance at their bottoms, and showers of honour were daily poured upon him.

Many hardy champions also enlisted themselves beneath his banners, and fought his battles with a desperate and zealous fury.

Howbeit there arose from the tribe of Whiganza, a valiant hero whose name was Benjamin; and he buckled on him the shield of reason, and grasping in his hand the sword of truth, he marched into the host of Toribundos, and the whole army fled from before him, or fell by his hand: yea so totally were they defeated, that they turned not again unto this day.

Now

Now the rest of the acts of queen Anne, and all her glorious conquests; her piety also to the clergy, and the fifty churches that she built, behold, if thou livest to see them, thou mayest die an old man.

And Anne slept with her fathers, and was buried in the chapel of Henry the seventh, and George of Hanover reigned in her stead.

GEORGE I.

AND George was fifty and six years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over England twelve years and ten months, and his mother's name was Sophia.

Now it came to pass that the son of king James the second, who had been abroad since his father's abdication, attempted to set himself on the throne of Great Britain.

And there were great commotions in the land, and the spirits of the people were stirred up to rebellion in many places.

And the friends of James assembled an army and marched to Preston: and they were encountered there by the king's forces, and entirely defeated.

Foster also their general, with the lords Derwentwater, Witherington, Nithisdale, Wintoun,

Wintoun, Kenmure, and many others, were taken captive and committed to the tower of London; and the heads of some were smitten off on Tower-Hill, but some escaped.

The earl of Marr also assembled an army in Scotland; but he was discomfited and put to flight by the duke of Argyle.

And now the crown of Great Britain began to sit firm on the head of king George; his virtues also began to appear, and those that spake evil of him were confounded and put to shame.

And behold it came to pass in these days, that a strong delusion was sent amongst them, and all the people of the land, were stricken with madness.

They looked towards the Southern sea, and behold a surprising bubble arose on the surface of the water; its circumference filled the firmament of heaven, and its height reached unto the clouds.

And in the midst of the bubble were seen the appearance of sumptuous palaces, fine gardens, gilt chariots, gold, silver, and precious stones, and whatsoever the heart of man could desire.

And the people ran together in crowds, saying, *We will be rich; we will be all lords and princes of the earth.*

Many

Many also disposed of their lands and their houses, their goods, and their merchandise, their plate, their jewels and their cloaths, in order to purchase the shadows in the bubble.

Howbeit the delusion began to abate, and whilst they were looking, lo the bubble brake, and the gay appearances vanished into smoke!

Then were heard weepings and wailings, and bitter lamentations: he whose delusive dreams had flattered him with delicious gardens and a sumptuous palace, awakes and finds himself in a wretched garret, or sweeping those walks which he had planted for himself: He whose gilt liveries had glittered in his imagination, is compelled for want to wear one himself; and he who fed on venison at five guineas a haunch, now dines in Pudding-Lane on a twopenny chop.

But woe unto you managers, woe unto you jobbers, woe unto you the directors thereof! for the mysteries of the land are at your doors; the cries of the poor are against you; the ruin of thousands compel them to curse you, and the vengeance of heaven shall fall heavy on your heads.

Now the rest of the acts of king George, and all that he did, are they not written in the books of the chronicles of the kings of England?

And

And George slept with his fathers, and was buried in his own tomb at Hanover, and George his son reigned in his stead.

GEORGE II.

AND George was forty and four years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over Britain thirty and four years, and his mother's name was Sophia.

And he was a great warriour, and a wise politician. By the wisdom of his ministers, the courage of his generals and the bravery of his admirals, Britain was brought to the highest pinnacle of her glory.

In those days her old enemy the king of the French sought to compass her about, and to place Charles Edward the bastard, upon the throne; but he was discomfited, both he and his army, and they were obliged to run to and fro, and to hide themselves in caves by day, and disguise themselves in women's apparel, to save them from the fury of William of Cumberland and his army. Nevertheless many of them were taken; and the nobles they beheaded on Tower-Hill but all those of low estate were hanged on a tree.

But

But though their counsels were brought to nought, yet was not their enmity against England and against her king abated ; for they soon after began to encroach upon her provinces and to carry away her subjects captive.

Therefore was the fury of George and the nation kindled against that deceitful nation, and he seized her ships, and made proclamation of war against her.

And appointed William Pitt to be his minister, and the favour of the Lord was with William, for whatsoever he devised did prosper, and his name filled France with terror and Spain with dismay.

The generals that he appointed over the armies, and the admirals to whom he gave the command of the fleets, obeyed his voice, and acquitted themselves valiantly.

And all the world was filled with the fame of their victories: The cities which they took, the islands which surrendered to their arms, and the ships which they destroyed, shall be an ensample to all future generals and admirals.

And the rest of the acts of king George, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of Smollet the historian.

And

And George slept with his fathers, and was buried in the chapel of Henry the seventh, and George his grandson reigned in his stead.

GEORGE III.

AND George, the third of that name, was twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and his father's name was Frederick Prince of Wales.

And he was a good and virtuous prince, and went not a whoring after strange women; but did that which is right in the sight of the Lord, by taking unto himself a wife.

And her name was Charlotte of the house of Mecklenburgh.

And she was adorned with that which surpasseth jewels and rubies; she cloathed herself with virtue as with a garment, and from the poor and needy she turned not away.

And she meddled not with the affairs of the nation (as other queens had done before her,) but looked to the ways of her children. Therefore the people loved her, and the voice of scandal could not raise itself against her. Many women have done virtuously, but she excelleth them all.

And

And George loved her above all women ; and they begat many sons and daughters ; sons that are all brave, and daughters that are all virtuous ; so that from the days of Noah even unto this day no king had so great a family and wherewithall so comely to look upon.

But though George was a good man and a gracious prince, his subjects were not contented and happy : for he put over them ministers who laid grievous obnoxious taxes upon them ; and because the people murmured, therefore sought they the more grievously to vex them. Some they put in prison, others were punished with heavy fines, and the laws and liberties of the kingdom they sought utterly to change : wherefore the wrath of the nation was stirred up, and there were great and violent murmurings against them. And many provinces, even all America, raised up the standard of rebellion ; and after long wars, wherein the hands of sons were raised against their fathers and fathers against sons, the arms of the Americans prevailed ; and they became a separate state. Then these wicked ministers were turned from their places, and others put in their stead : nevertheless they changed not their measures ; but sought to exalt them-

H selves

selves both against the king and his subjects; and to strengthen themselves they called to their assistance those wicked ministers whom they had formerly bitterly condemned, saying, “ we shall divide the spoil, we shall possess all the posts and pensions, and none shall “ be able to pluck them out of our hands.”

But the council of the wicked did not stand; for William Pit, the son of that William whom all Britain before did honour, raised up his voice against them and prevailed; for both the king and the people clave unto him, and they brake the yoke which these wicked ministers had made to bind all the land, and the king banished them from all posts *for ever*.

After those days a great and a wonderful madness broke out among a people in France; so wonderful was it, that from being worshippers of kings, whose backfides they would have kissed, they became in the twinkling of an eye king killers and queen murderers. And all that had the blood of royalty in their veins they did cruelly destroy; and whosoever would not take an oath to destroy father and mother, sister and brother, wife and children, if they raised up their voice and spoke in favour of kings, they did wickedly behead with guillotine.

So

So great was the destruction throughout the land, that many thousand guillotines could not clear the prisons of their innocent victims: wherefore they drowned them in hundreds and butchered them in thousands; and he who could invent the most speedy method to destroy the human race, was accounted worthy of all honour.

And every good man and every virtuous woman, were obliged to fly out of the land, or to hide themselves in rocks and caves from the fury of Roberspiere and the infernal monsters with whom he overspread the land.

And they made the house of God a repository for engines of their destruction, and banished all priests and religion from the land; and in its stead they set up a whore for their idol, and gave her for a cloak the charming name of Liberty, (a name that is often grossly abused;) and they fell down and worshipped her by day, but debased her by night.

And many were drunk to madness with her abominations, and said, we will exalt her through all kingdoms of the earth; their kings will we bind in chains, and their princes with fetters of iron. And they sought out the most wicked men they could find, and sent them through all the earth to pollute it with

the poison of their words, and to get all men to worship the whore whom they set up.

And many of them came into England, and with their forceries beguiled many shallow and foolish men; especially a stay maker whose name was Thomas Paine.

And they made Thomas their Apostle in Britain, and he began to exhort all men to rebellion, by telling them they were galled with tyranny and loaded with taxes; and sought to raise up an army of men to dethrone the king, saying, "Come unto us all ye who
"are laden with crimes and debts, hearken
"unto us and we will gorge you with fat
"things. The rich bishopricks, the fat liv-
"ings of the priests, the great estates of the
"nobles, and the full coffers of the mer-
"chants and tradesmen of London, &c. shall
"be divided among you, for LIBERTY AND
"EQUALITY shall be established throughout
"the land."

And rogues and vagabonds opened their ears and listened to his words; and they began to make pikes and daggers, and other instruments of war, and appointed them captains of fifties and captains of hundreds to train them to arms.

And fear began to spread itself among all good men and peaceable citizens, and sleep almost

almost departed from their eyes, because of the horror of the pikes and the daggers.

But one Edmund Burke made proclamation to the king, to his ministers, and to all the people, saying, “ Rouse ye, rouse ye Britons and fellow subjects! rouse ye from your lethargy before ye be utterly destroyed! even as the people of France are at this day. A legion of devils are come over, their eyes are already glutted with your fat livings and fair estates, and except ye exert yourselves and banish them from the land, their daggers will drink your blood, and the blood of your sons and daughters, and leave you neither root nor branch.”

And all wise men hearkened unto his word, and William Pitt and other ministers of the king followed his council; and they banished Thomas Paine their apostle out of the land, and many of his followers sent they unto Botany Bay. And because they threatened to invade the land with a great army of demons whom they called redcaps, therefore the wrath of the king kindled against them, and he made war upon them. And there were many great and grievous battles between them, and fields were filled with blood: for he that was not slain in battle, but taken prisoner, was killed in cold blood.

And

And when this war will end ; and whether the right cause will prevail, or the council of the wicked shall prosper ; none of the prophets from the great prophet Brothers (called the nephew of God) down to the washer-woman hath prophesied.

And of the other acts and occurrences of this reign ; how a certain class of men, who called themselves reformers and patriots, were constantly preaching up reforms and changes, and prophecying destruction and ruin under the administration of William Pitt, to get him out, and themselves in, and of the padlocks that were clapped on their mouths, &c. &c. are they not recorded in the history of the Levite Belsham, (and other historians of a day). Howbeit in them there are many things recorded which we ought not to credit, because they wrote these things to please a party, and not to record the truth.

He that is wise let him refrain from treason and his mouth from speaking seditious words ; then shall he dwell in safety, and his seed after him.

But he that is foolish and obstinate, that plotteth mischief against his king and country, to kindle the flames of war in our bosoms, let Botany Bay be his dwelling place, or the New Drop his portion.

And

And behold the sceptre continueth in George's hand, the crown is also on his head; and he sitteth on the throne of his majesty unto this day.

Where, that he may long continue in power and great glory, let us pray, That his ministers be just, and his counsellors be wise, and his captains courageous; so shall he become the terror of France, and the wonder of Europe.

Then we will come before his presence with thanksgiving, and enter into his court with praise; we will be thankful unto him and speak good of his name.

And now behold these are the names of the kings of England, and these are their generations.

George the third, was the grandson of George the second, who was the son of George the first, who was the cousin of Anne, who was the sister-in-law of William the third, who was the son-in-law of James the second, who was the brother of Charles the second, who was the son of Charles the first who was the son of James the first, who was the cousin of Elizabeth, who was the sister of Mary, who was the sister of Edward the sixth, who was the son of Henry the eighth, who was the son of Henry the seventh, who

was

was the cousin of Richard the third, who was the uncle of Edward the fifth, who was the son of Edward the fourth, who was the cousin of Henry the sixth, who was the son of Henry the fifth, who was the son of Henry the fourth, who was the cousin of Richard the second, who was the grandson of Edward the third, who was the son of Edward the second, who was the son of Edward the first, who was the son of Henry the third, who was the son of John, who was the brother of Richard the first, who was the son of Henry the second, who was the cousin of Stephen, who was the cousin of Henry the first, who was the brother of William Rufus, who was the son of William the conqueror, who was the son of a whore.

Thus endeth the chronicles of the **KINGS**
of **ENGLAND**.

FINIS.



